



S/N 10/055,640

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	SHIRAISHI et al.	Examiner:	Aguirrechea, Jaydi A.
Serial No.:	10/055,640	Group Art Unit:	2834
Filed:	January 22, 2002	Docket No.:	10873.867US01
Title:	PIEZOCOMPOSITE, ULTRASONIC PROBE FOR ULTRASONIC DIAGNOSTIC EQUIPMENT, ULTRASONIC DIAGNOSTIC EQUIPMENT, AND METHOD FOR PRODUCING PIEZOCOMPOSITE		

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on March 23, 2004.

By: 

Name: Jennifer Holden

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c))

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

With regard to the above-identified application, the items of information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 are brought to the attention of the Examiner. At least some of the references were recently cited in a European Search Report mailed February 26, 2004.

This statement should be considered because it is submitted after the mailing date of a first Office Action on-the-merits or a first Office Action after filing a Request for Continued Examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 or a CPA under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d), but before the mailing date of: i) a final action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113; ii) a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.311; or iii) an action that otherwise closes prosecution on the application. No fee is due as this statement is submitted as certified below under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1) or (2) by the undersigned.

Certification Under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(1)

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c) or §1.97(d), the undersigned hereby certifies that each item of information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application within three months of filing this statement.

Certification Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.704(d)

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.704(d), the undersigned hereby certifies that each item listed on the enclosed Form 1449 was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application, and that this communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than thirty (30) days prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. Accordingly, no patent term adjustment is due for the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2), a copy of each document or other information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 is provided.

No representation is made that a reference is "prior art" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 and Applicants reserve the right, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 or otherwise, to establish that the reference(s) are not "prior art." Moreover, Applicants do not represent that a reference has been thoroughly reviewed or that any relevance of any portion of a reference is intended.

Consideration of the items listed is respectfully requested. Pursuant to the provisions of M.P.E.P. 609, it is requested that the Examiner return a copy of the attached Form 1449, marked as being considered and initialed by the Examiner, to the undersigned with the next official communication.

Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

Dated: March 23, 2004

By: _____

Douglas P. Mueller
Reg. No. 30,300

DPM/jh

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FORM 1449*

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

IN AN APPLICATION

(Use several sheets if necessary)

Docket Number:

10873.867US01

Application Number:

10/055,640

Applicant: SHIRAISHI et al.

Filing Date: January 22, 2002

Group Art Unit: Unknown

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	5,340,510	08.1994	BOWEN			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
						YES	NO
	0 642 036	03.1995	EP				

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

		"Composite Piezoelectric Materials for Medical Ultrasonic Imaging Transducers-A Review" by Wallace Arden Smith, ISAF '86. PROCEEDINGS OF THE SIXTH IEEE INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON APPLICATIONS OF FERROELECTRICS, pp. 249-256 (1986)

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EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form for next communication to the Applicant.